新 ゴーマニズム宣言 SPECIAL

戦争論

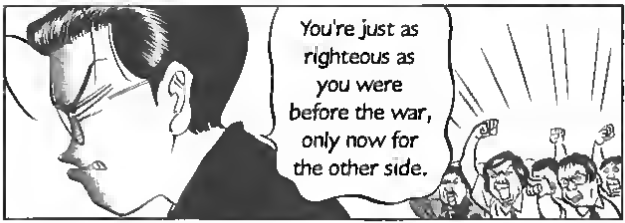
第2章 空気に逆らえぬだけの個のない論調

Devil!
War hawk!
Right-wing!

When people tell you your country is wrong about everything and demand apologies as if nobody else ever lost a war,
don't just sit there and nod like a moron!

Get out!
And don't come back!

You Pure'n' Innocents who believe in the certainty of your cause –
You true believers who defend justice with screams and shouts


You're just as righteous as you were before the war, only now for the other side.

Only one side appeared in the newspapers
Its opponents were labelled "non-citizens".
During the war, justice meant blanketing the country with the messages, "Japan will never lose!", and "American and British devils!"

Only one side appears in the newspapers.
Its opponents are labelled "rightists".
After the war, justice meant blanketing the country with the messages, "Japan was the aggressor!" and "World peace, end war!"

Without thinking about how this "World peace, end war!" could spell ruin in the future!
Nothing has changed in Japan. We only went from "American and British devils!" to "World peace, end war!"

Supposedly, Japan has an "atmosphere" that has done a 180-degree reversal since the war.

But what is this "atmosphere", anyway?

Did the mass media change things? Obviously not

Neither did ordinary citizens, who just want to be seen as good people.

Intellectuals and celebrities, who just want to avoid being despised, didn't create it.

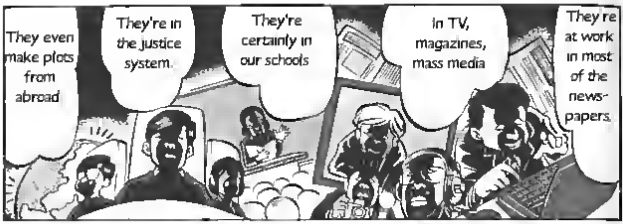
But this is the "atmosphere" which clouds Japan:

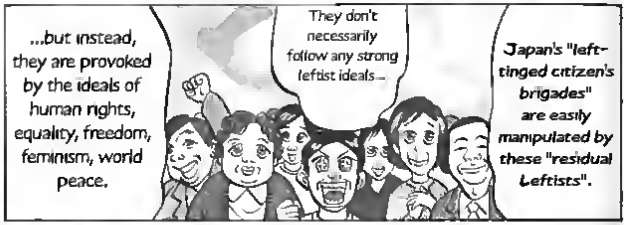
What I am about to write might be unbearable to these Pure'n' Innocents

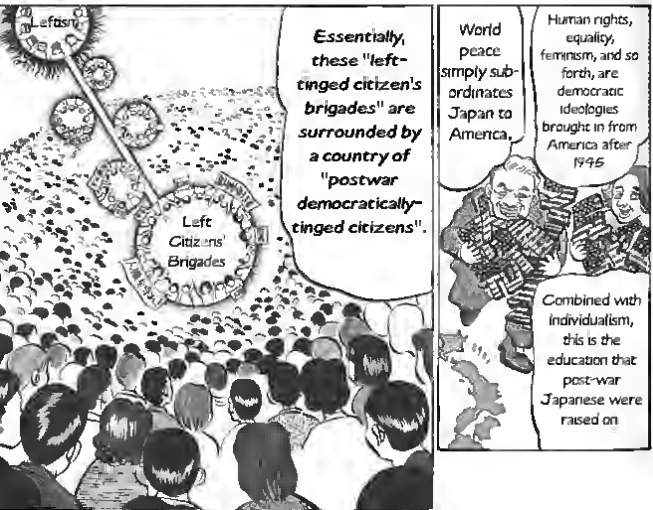
They have no desire to oppose this "atmosphere".

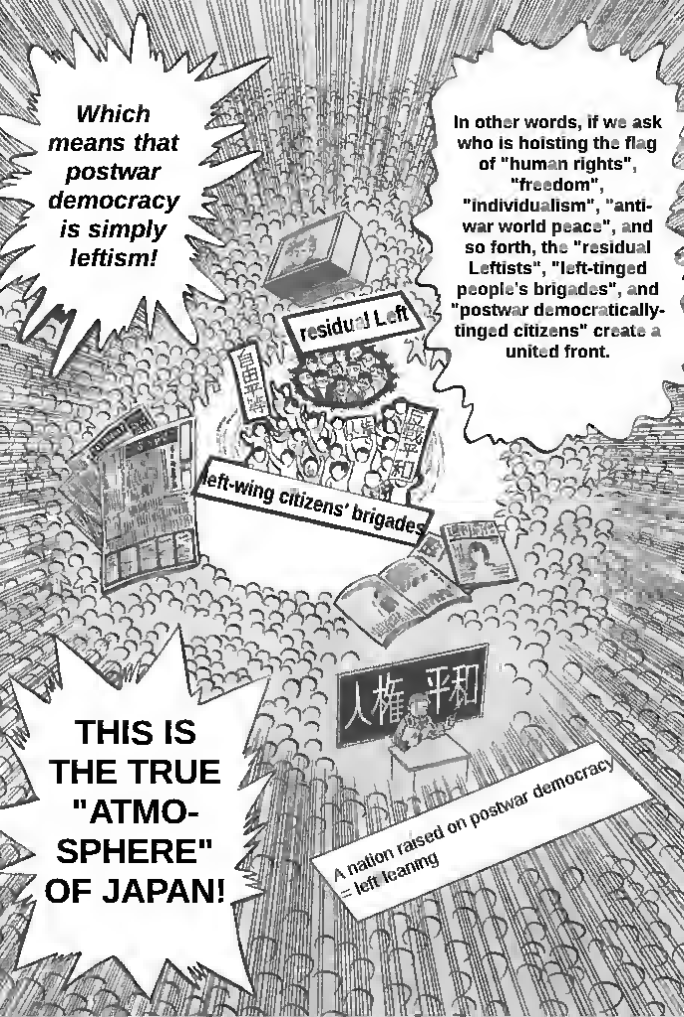
Today, real Leftists, anti-authoritarian Marxists, have become a truly small minority in Japan.

But this minority of "residual Leftists" have continued their work with quite stubborn tenacity.


They even make plots from abroad
They're in the justice system.
They're certainly in our schools
In TV, magazines, mass media
They're at work in most of the news-papers.


...but instead, they are provoked by the ideals of human rights, equality, freedom, feminism, world peace.
They don't necessarily follow any strong leftist ideals—
Japan's "left-tinged citizen's brigades" are easily manipulated by these "residual Leftists".


Leftists
Left Citizens' Brigades
Essentially, these "left-tinged citizen's brigades" are surrounded by a country of "postwar democratically-tinged citizens".
World peace simply subordinates Japan to America.
Human rights, equality, feminism, and so forth, are democratic ideologies brought in from America after 1945
Combined with individualism, this is the education that post-war Japanese were raised on


Which means that postwar democracy is simply leftism!
In other words, if we ask who is hoisting the flag of "human rights", "freedom", "individualism", "anti-war world peace", and so forth, the "residual Leftists", "left-tinged people's brigades", and "postwar democratically-tinged citizens" create a united front.
residual Left
left-wing citizens' brigades
人権 平和
THIS IS THE TRUE "ATMO-SPHERE" OF JAPAN!
A nation raised on postwar democracy = left leaning

They develop their anti-power anti-state movement by denouncing Japan to the world as a country of war criminals
Right now, the remnant Left is flitting about in China and America. Japan's onetime enemies
Thanks to the value "human rights" which today's Japan has received from America, the people lean left, opening up a chance for the remnant Left to resume activities!
I use Leftism, written in kanji, to refer to those influenced by Marxist ideology
and "leftism" in katakana for those anti-power anti-state brigaders influenced unconsciously by values like "human rights"
He who possesses individuality is the true Gomanist!
Before and after the war, the tone allows for no opposition as an individual!
May I kick some hubris down your throat?
I am glad to become a villain opposing this culture!

THINKING ABOUT GOMANISM
Commentary by Shii

This chapter is concerned with Yoshirin's individuality, which I put in contrast to individualism in the previous essay. Legally speaking, prewar and postwar Japan appear to be worlds apart, as the prewar state had no freedom of expression and routinely banned groups that threatened the state, while the postwar state allows anyone to write or believe whatever they like. Yoshirin claims, though, that the legal ideals have no relationship to the tone of society, which remained the same. In both societies, Pure'n'Innocents not wanting to make trouble eagerly support causes that match the "atmosphere", and ignore dissent. Actually, in the opinion of the late critic Shichihei Yamamoto, this "atmosphere" has a tighter control on Japan than any politician or intellectual.

In both eras, dissent means fighting a mob, and becoming a villain. The main point he's trying to make is that the postwar "atmosphere" is blindly cheering on a leftist current whose top thinkers do not have Japan's best interests at heart. He concludes from this that opposing the "atmosphere" is the opposite of selfish individualism: it is in fact the work of a responsible individual trying to rescue his state by exercising the freedom of thought which the modern state guarantees to him.